

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

## WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

<p>Date of mailing (day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)</p>		
<p><b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraph 2 below</p>		
International application No. PCT/EP2004/051354	International filing date (day/month/year) 05.07.2004	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H01R13/627		
Applicant FCI		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for International preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1b/s(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:	Authorized Officer
 <p>European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016</p>	<p>Demol, S</p> <p>Telephone No. +31 70 340-4460</p> 

10/564681

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/EP2004/051354

10/564681 13 JAN 2006

**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
  - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. **type of material:**
    - a sequence listing
    - table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. **format of material:**
    - in written format
    - in computer readable form
  - c. **time of filing/furnishing:**
    - contained in the international application as filed.
    - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
    - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/EP2004/051354

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or  
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2-8, 10-16
	No: Claims	1,9
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-16

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING  
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)****Re Item V.**

1 The following document is referred to in this communication:

D1 : US 5 411 402 A (BETHURUM GARY C) 2 May 1995 (1995-05-02)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Locking element (42) for locking and unlocking a cable connector (10) and a counterpart (12), said locking element (42) extending along a longitudinal axis (R,F) between a rear side and a mating side, said mating side comprising two or more resilient beams (34,36) extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis (R,F) and containing one or more locking structures (140) comprising an insertion surface and a locking surface disposed at angles ( $\alpha, \alpha'$ ) with said longitudinal axis (R,F) in which,

said insertion surface and said locking surface have an inclined orientation with respect to said longitudinal axis (40;63) wherein said angle ( $\alpha'$ ) of said locking surface is larger than said angle ( $\alpha$ ) of said insertion surface but substantially smaller than 90 degrees.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 9

The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 9 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Connector system (10,12) comprising a cable connector (10) and a board connector (12) wherein one or more locking elements (42) are applied to connect said cable

connector (10) and board connector (12), said locking elements (42) having a locking structure (140) and extending along a longitudinal axis (R,F) between a rear side and a mating side

in which,

~~said locking structure (140) is disposed on one or more resilient beams (34,36)~~  
extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis (R,F)

**4 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-8, 10-16**

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-16 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

In these claims a slight constructional change in the locking element or the connector system of claim 1 or 9 is defined which comes within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen. Consequently, the subject-matter of these claims lacks an inventive step.

**5 Claims 1-16 relate to subject-matter regarding electrical connections, consequently the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims, as required by Article 33(4) PCT, is fulfilled.**